

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Thursday - 27 May 1976

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X1 21. (Internal Use Only - PLC) PERSONNEL Jim Pyrros, Administrative Assistant to Representative Lucien N. Nedzi (D., Mich.), called inquiring as to the Agency's decision to rehire two former Agency employees, [] who transferred to DEA and want to return as they were misinformed by DEA concerning their eligibility for DEA's liberal retirement program. Pyrros said this matter is also of interest to Senators Sam Nunn (D., Ga.), Joseph R. Biden (D., Del.), and Charles McC. Mathias (R., Md.). After checking with [] Office of Personnel, I called Pyrros and informed him that a decision would be made shortly and I will let him know. 25X1

X1 22. (Unclassified - RC) INTEL BRIEFING Charles Sorrels, Congressional Budget Office, called to ask for a briefing session by [] [] for an update of USSR Strategic Missile Test programs, particularly the SS-17. It was arranged for 0900, 1 June. 25X1

23. (Internal Use Only - LLM) LIAISON Called Bud McFarlane, NSC staff, in follow-up of the Director's initial and Ben Evans', O/DCI, subsequent conversation with William Hyland, NSC. A mechanism was agreed to, to assure that the NSC was properly alerted to avoid "surprises" on congressional briefings and it will be instituted tomorrow.

24. (Internal Use Only - LLM) FAA ALERT Notified the principal members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, Senate and House Appropriations Committees, the House International Relations Committee, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of the existence of a Presidential finding under Section 662 of the Foreign Assistance Act. This covers all committees except the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. After failing to contact Chairman Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii), who had just departed for Hawaii, I left a message for Bill Miller, Staff Director of the Select Committee, to call me. See note for file. 25X1

[]
Acting Legislative Counsel

cc:

O/DCI DDI DDA DDS&T
O/DDCI Mr. Thuerner
Ex. Sec. Mr. Parmenter

[]
EA/DDO IC Staff
Comptroller 25X1

27 May 1976

Notification of Committees of Presidential Finding

House Armed Services -- In the absence of Chairman Nedzi of the Intelligence Subcommittee, the notification and explanation was provided to Chief Counsel, Frank Slatinshek. Slatinshek's reaction was that he can't believe the possible impact is worth the risk of leakage--later he informed me that Mr. Nedzi wanted Mr. Bush to know that he thought it was incredible that the Administration would mount such an operation because it would be almost impossible to assure against congressional leakage in view of the number of committees which have to be briefed.

House Appropriations -- Chairman Mahon in the company of Ralph Preston and Charles Snodgrass, viewed this as a modest effort and was willing to assume responsibility to assure against leakage in response to the Executive Branch's concern. We are obligated to get back to him if the other committees believe it is essential to assemble for a briefing on the scope and description of the program.

Senate Foreign Relations -- In the absence of Senator Sparkman, the notification and explanation was provided to Pat Holt, Chief of Staff. He too felt that the possible impact was not worth the risk. His personal reaction was that he favored the earlier suspended program because it was in support of responsible people and that this smacked of a "dirtier trick." He said he would inform Chairman Sparkman and it was likely they would want to schedule a briefing of themselves. His opinion was that they would not have any objection to the program. I observed that the probability of leakage would occur if as is that Committee's normal practice a notice is circulated to the full membership of the full Committee that the Director has made a report of a new Presidential finding. Holt argued that the whole purpose of the Hughes/Ryan amendment is to permit members to raise their objection to the Executive Branch in a responsible manner and in this connection said that Senator McGovern, [REDACTED] had acted responsibly by writing to the President and had never received a reply. I said I could understand why this topic

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he is the Counsel for the Committee but he was out.

Comment:

The problem is that many cannot see how we can have an impact at such a little cost (\$75,000). There was also concern that the President may not be receiving wise counsel on the cost/benefit ratio. I tried to draw the line between the President's responsibility and that of the Congress in this respect, indicated that the leakage problem was our greatest concern and that one must conclude from this decision that the likelihood of having a crucial impact on a very small percentage of the vote bearing on the final outcome has been carefully evaluated. I said the amount of money is not the point--but that even a letter mailed with a 13¢ stamp can have a significant bearing on an election outcome if the result is to create the right issue which is important to the electorate.

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